Claims 1-3, 5-17, 19-24 and 26-28 are pending in this application. Claims 4, 18, and 25 have been canceled and their subject matter included in respective independent Claims 1, 15, and 22 to effectively rewrite Claims 4, 18, and 25 in independent form, all without the introduction of any new matter.

As Claims 8-14 were indicated to be allowable and Claims 1, 15, and 22 have been amended to include the subject matter of Claims 4, 18, and 25 to effectively rewrite these claims in independent form to overcome the objection in the Office Action mailed November 18, 2002, it is believed that this application should now be allowable.

In light of the foregoing and as no other issues are believed to remain outstanding relative to this application, it is respectfully submitted that this application is clearly in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

--1. (Amended) An optical information recording/reproducing apparatus including an optical pickup for making a light beam emitted from a light source incident on a recording medium via a two-group objective lens so as to record or reproduce optical information on or from said recording medium, said two-group objective lens including a first lens disposed in the vicinity of said recording medium and a second lens disposed at a position facing to said recording medium with said first lens put therebetween, said apparatus comprising:

a moving means for cyclically moving at least one of said first lens and said second lens constituting part of said optical pickup in [the] a direction of [the] an optical axis thereof; and

a control means for performing, upon focusing operation, the positional adjustment of said first lens and said second lens after start-up of focus control, on the basis of reproducing signals obtained from said recording medium at one or more points of the cyclic movement of said at least one of said first lens and said second lens by said moving means,

wherein a cycle of the cyclic change in a distance between said first lens and said second lens is longer than a cycle of the cyclic movement of said at least one of said first lens and said second lens.

15. (Amended) An optical information recording/reproducing apparatus including an optical pickup for making a light beam emitted from a light source incident on a recording medium via a primary lens disposed in the vicinity of said recording medium and at least a secondary lens so as to record or reproduce optical information on or from said recording medium, said apparatus comprising:

a first drive means for driving said primary lens in [the] a direction of [the] an optical axis thereof, and a second drive means for driving said secondary lens in [the] a direction of [the] an optical axis thereof;

a moving means for cyclically moving at least one of said primary lens and said secondary lens constituting part of said optical pickup in the direction of the optical axis thereof; and

a control means for performing, upon focusing operation, the positional adjustment of said primary lens and said secondary lens after start-up of focus control, on the basis of reproducing signals obtained from said recording medium at one or more points of the cyclic movement of said at least one of said primary lens and said secondary lens by said moving means,

wherein a cycle of the cyclic movement of said secondary lens is longer than a cycle of the cyclic movement of said primary lens.

22. (Amended) An optical information recording/reproducing method which is carried out by using an optical pickup for making a light beam emitted from a light source incident on a recording medium via a two-group objective lens so as to record or reproduce optical information on or from said recording medium, said two-group objective lens including a first lens disposed in the vicinity of said recording medium and a second lens

disposed at a position facing to said recording medium with said first lens put therebetween, said method comprising the steps of:

cyclically moving at least one of said first lens and said second lens constituting part of said optical pickup in [the] a direction of [the] an optical axis thereof; and

performing, upon focusing operation, the positional adjustment of said first lens and said second lens after start-up of focus control, on the basis of reproducing signals obtained from said recording medium at one or more points of the cyclic movement of said at least one of said first lens and said second lens,

wherein a cycle of the cyclic change in a distance between said first lens and second lens is longer than a cycle of the cyclic movement of said at least one of said first lens and said second lens.